

ST. THOMAS CAMPUS THE SUZUKI METHOD

Overview

Modeled after the way that children learn their native language, Dr. Shinichi Suzuki's *Talent Education* is based on the belief that musical ability is not innate but developed through a nurturing environment. Students work closely with their parents and teacher to progress through well-designed repertoire that reviews past skills and builds new skills through repetition and positive reinforcement. Just as we learn to speak first, then read and write, this process is grounded in listening and imitating, but ultimately leads to an ability to read music. Through individual lessons, group lessons, and daily practice, students will develop not only strong musical skills, but strong character and sense of community involvement as well.

The "Mother Tongue Method"

In this method, skills of playing the instrument ("speaking") are learned first. Once the student is fluent in playing, and when they are developmentally ready, sight reading is introduced—much like students hear language in the home, are read to, and learn to speak before they learn to read and write.

"Environmental Listening"

Recordings of the repertoire are essential for daily "environmental listening." These recordings are played daily many, many times—just as children naturally hear their native language in their home environment.

Parent as the Home Practice Partner

The unique partnership role that parents play in this musical journey is key to a child's success. Parents learn beginning techniques alongside their children to prepare them to be successful home practice partners. The parent's role at home is to establish a daily practice routine, celebrate progress, and facilitate correct practicing. His or her role in lessons is to observe, take notes, and ask questions.

Group Class and Ensemble

Learning an instrument involves a lot of hard work and discipline, but it also leads to great rewards and joy—perhaps the greatest of which is the ability to play in community with other musicians. Students in PK – 3rd grade gather weekly for Group Class, where we play music and games, learn about diverse musicians and composers, strengthen our listening skills, and enjoy sharing our music with others. Students in 4th – 5th grade participate weekly in Ensemble, where we develop sight reading skills, strengthen our ability to play different parts together, and learn to play with other instruments.

"Music exists for the purpose of growing an admirable heart." ~ Shinichi Suzuki

ST. THOMAS CAMPUS

FEES AND POLICIES

Tuition:

- Lessons and Ensemble/Group Class: \$1000
- Ensemble/Group Class ONLY: \$300 (for students taking private lessons elsewhere)

Note: tuition includes 28 private lessons, 26 ensemble/group classes, and at least 2 performances during the school year. Students in 2nd grade and older may also participate in the annual Music Pal Project, which includes several community performances throughout the school year.

Payment:

- First installment (50% tuition) is due with registration by **September 7th**.
- Second installment (remaining tuition) is due by **January 4th**.
- Tuition must be received before students can begin lessons.
- Payment through **Venmo** (@CaitlinVeronin) is preferred, but checks are also accepted (made out to **Caitlin Veronin** and brought to the main office).

Scheduling and Make-Up Lessons

- Lessons and ensemble/group class will take place on Tuesdays during school.
- All effort will be made to accommodate lesson preferences, but lesson times are heavily dependent on school scheduling and the order that registrations are received.
- **Parents of first year and PK - 3rd grade students are required to attend lessons.** Based on teacher discretion, parents of students in 4th - 5th grade may not need to attend.
- **Parents may miss 1 lesson each semester**—further absences will result in a cancelled lesson that cannot be made up.
- **Students who forget their instruments cannot participate in group or private lessons.**
- Up to 3 lessons can be rescheduled if missed due to instructor absence, school closure, school events, illness, or other excused absences. Lessons missed due to unexcused absences, forgotten instruments, or parent absence cannot be rescheduled.

Required Purchases:

- [Suzuki Violin School Vol. 1 Recording \(Hilary Hahn version\)](#)
- [Suzuki Violin School Vol. 1 Book](#)
- Accessories as requested by instructor (shoulder rests, strings, rosin, music stands, etc.)
- Quality instrument outfit (violin, bow, and case)
 - [The String House](#) offers high-quality instruments and service. It is highly recommended for students who demonstrate clear interest and commitment.
 - [Seery Strings](#) offers a local and affordable option with equally wonderful service for those still determining commitment level.
 - **New students do not need to acquire instruments or accessories until after their first month of lessons!**

ST. THOMAS CAMPUS SUZUKI REGISTRATION

Return this form with tuition to the STA office by **September 7th**.

Lessons will begin on **September 12th** – Group Class and Ensemble will begin on **September 19th**!

Registration

Student: _____ Grade/Homeroom: _____

Parent/Practice Partner: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

I have read and agree to the Fees and Policies document _____

Initial

Date

Check one: I have included full tuition I have included a 1st installment (50% tuition)

Notes:

- Tuition:
 - Lessons and Ensemble/Group: \$1000
 - Ensemble/Group ONLY: \$300
- Tuition covers 28 lessons, 26 group classes, and 2+ performances during the school year.
- **Parents of first year and PK-3rd grade students are required to attend private lessons.**

Scheduling

Indicate with 1st, 2nd, 3rd your preferences for weekly individual lessons with your child.

Lessons will take place on Tuesdays.

8:00 _____	10:00 _____	12:00 _____	2:00 _____
8:30 _____	10:30 _____	12:30 _____	2:30 _____
9:00 _____	11:00 _____	1:00 _____	3:00 _____
9:30 _____	11:30 _____	1:30 _____	

Questions? Please contact Caitlin Veronin at clef356@gmail.com